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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/520,018

07/20/2005

Terry Johnson

P08529US00/DEJ

9396

881 7590 05/11/2009

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EXAMINER

CHEEMA, AZAM M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/11/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/520,018	Applicant(s) JOHNSON, TERRY	
	Examiner AZAM CHEEMA	Art Unit 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 116-165 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 116-165 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed on 02/25/2009 for application 10/520,018. Claims 1-115 have been canceled. Claims 116-165 have been added as new. Claims 116-165 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, with respect to the claims 116, 139 and 150 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. After further search and a through examination of the present application, claims 116-165 remain rejected.

Applicant arguments regarding claims 116 and 150 rejection relating to prior art Schulze does not teach perform the interception necessary to allow manipulation or synthesis of data in route between the POS and its peripherals or peripherals and the POS. The examiner respectfully submits in particular Schulze clearly show perform the interception necessary to allow manipulation or synthesis of data in route between the POS and its peripherals or peripherals and the POS (col.10, lines 23-33, report may include information identifying the product and face value of the coupon, and any other information that has been downloaded from the point-of-sale subsystem 112 or scanned or otherwise entered into the coupon redemption subsystem 104 during the coupon verification process. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the report of redeemed coupons, a release of the verifying coupons transferring

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ownership of those coupons from the retailer to the third party verification service, and a check are printed using the printer 332).

Applicant arguments regarding claim 139 rejections relating to prior art Schulze does not teach that intercepting and manipulating the data sent to a POS printer is required. The examiner respectfully submits in particular Schulze clearly show that intercepting and manipulating the data sent to a POS printer is required (Fig.3, processor 312 intercept data send from Point of Sale System 112 because Processor 312 requires and controls the function of Printer 332).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 116-133, 137-157 and 164-165 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulze Jr. (PAT NO: US 6,497,360 B1) in view of Freeny Jr. (PAT NO: US 6,490,443 B1).

As per claim 116, Schulze, Jr teaches a system for collecting and/or adjusting and/or manipulating data from a data stream generated at a point of sale terminal or peripheral, the system comprising:

a point of sale terminal in communication with at least one peripheral device, wherein the electronic data communicated is specific to the at least one peripheral device function, and wherein said data is generated by the device or said point of sale terminal, dependent on whether the device is an input device or an output device (col.2, lines 41-49, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, point of sale subsystem can include a main computer or server of the retailer that commonly communicates with a number of check out stations at which products are purchased, each check out stations includes a cash drawer or electronic cash register together with a product scanner, the product scanner reads the upc on the product as part of the check-out procedure, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer);

an intelligent interface in communication with the point of sale terminal and capable of intercepting said electronic data stream from the point of sale terminal, the interface including an

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input and a first output in communication with the at least one peripheral device (col.5, lines 9-14, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, the peripheral devices associated with the point of sale subsystem may include any one of a variety of input/output devices, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer);

a processing station in communication with the interface and which receives data intercepted from said electronic data and a second output from the interface in communication with said data processing station, wherein the interface is capable of interrupting said device specific electronic data transmitted between said point of sale terminal and said at least one peripheral device to adjust and/or compile at least a part of said electronic data stream to generate adjusted and/or compiled data, and wherein the adjusted and/or compiled data is transmitted to said at least one peripheral device via said interface (col.2, lines 47-57, col.10, lines 23-34, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, the coupon redemption subsystem is adapted to interface with this point-of-sale subsystem to receive information regarding the sale of products and any associated from the point-of-sale subsystem. In addition, the coupon redemption subsystem is adapted to store information associated with redeemed coupons and to attempt to match that information to product sale and discount information downloaded from the point-of-sale subsystem, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of

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interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer, col.10, lines 23-33, report may include information identifying the product and face value of the coupon, and any other information that has been downloaded from the point-of-sale subsystem 112 or scanned or otherwise entered into the coupon redemption subsystem 104 during the coupon verification process. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the report of redeemed coupons, a release of the verifying coupons transferring ownership of those coupons from the retailer to the third party verification service, and a check are printed using the printer 332);

But does not explicitly teach such that there is no adjustment to the point of sale software.

However, Freeny Jr teaches such that there is no adjustment to the point of sale software (col.38, lines 5-9, the computer unit will accept the data delivered in the same format via line without requiring program modifications such as credit card data wherein the data is delivered in the same format via line that the data is delivered to the computer unit via the legacy I/O unit).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Freeny Jr teaching with Schulze Jr teaching allows multiple wireless devices to access a single pay phone or other public kiosk communication unit designed to detect and recognize multiple wireless service providers signals and protocols at the same time (col.1, lines 18-23, Freeny Jr).

As per claim 117, wherein the processing station is a site controller capable of transmitting said adjusted data to at least one other processing station in communication with the processing station (col.13, lines 39-45, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 118, wherein the at least one other processing station is capable of providing additional data to a point of sale peripheral device (col.2, lines 49-53, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 119, wherein the at least one other processing station may be located either at the point of sale or at a remote location (col.4, lines 49-61, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 120, wherein the at least one other processing station is capable of performing tasks selected from at least one of the group consisting of validation of a customer coupon and voucher (col.3, lines 26-38, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 121, wherein a source of the electronic data comprises a scanner (col.2, lines 47-49, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 122, wherein a source of the electronic data comprises an electronic scale (col.1, lines 57-60, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 123, wherein a source of the electronic data comprises a magnetic card reader (col.32, lines 41-47, the legacy proximity unit includes legacy features for providing predetermined services such as card reader unit, a transaction unit, a transaction record and reporting unit, Freeny Jr).

As per claim 124, wherein a source of the electronic data comprises an electronic fund transfer point of sale scanner (col.2, lines 45-49, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 125, wherein a source of the electronic data comprises a keyboard (col.5, lines 12-15, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 126, wherein the at least one peripheral device in communication with the processing station via the intelligent interface is a secondary point of sale printer (col.5, lines 12-15, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 127, wherein output data to said at least one peripheral device includes content that is pre-loaded into the interface (col.5, lines 16-22, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 128, wherein the electronic data is provided by one or any combination of the following devices: a) a scanner, b) a keyboard, and c) a magnetic card (col.5, lines 12-15, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 129, wherein the intelligent interface enables data transmitted between said point of sale terminal and the at least one peripheral device to be intercepted for secondary adjustment, compilation or manipulation (col.5, lines 16-22, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 130, wherein the intelligent interface is in communication with a remote server and the remote server is in communication with a controller which links one or more remote sites to the remote server (col.4, lines 49-61, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 131, wherein further comprises a customer display (col.5, lines 9-12, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 132, wherein further comprises a lottery terminal (col.13, lines 43-47, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 133, further comprising an electronic fund transfer point of sale device (col.3, lines 33-35, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 137, wherein the intelligent interface is implemented as a piece of hardware external to an existing point of sale computer (Fig.3, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 138, wherein the intelligent interface comprises a software module within said point of sale computer working at a driver level to intercept and redirect data (col.2, lines 53-57, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 139, a system for adjusting data intercepted from a point of sale data stream

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between a point of sale terminal and a printer for receiving said data, wherein the electronic data communicated is specific to the printer function, and wherein said data is generated by the printer or said point of sale terminal, dependent on whether the printer acts as an input device or an output device the system (Fig.3) comprising:

an intelligent interface in communication with the point of sale terminal, capable of intercepting said electronic data stream before it reaches said printer, the interface including an input and a first output in communication with the printer, the printer capable of performing at least one function responsive to said data stream and

a first processing station in communication with the interface and which receives data intercepted from said electronic data stream via the interface to process said electronic data and return it via said interface to the printer (col.10, lines 23-34, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer, report may include information identifying the product and face value of the coupon, and any other information that has been downloaded from the point-of-sale subsystem 112 or scanned or otherwise entered into the coupon redemption subsystem 104 during the coupon verification process. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the report of redeemed coupons, a release of the verifying coupons transferring ownership of those coupons from the retailer to the third party verification service, and a check are printed using the printer 332).

But does not teach without adjust to the point of sale terminal.

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However, Freeny Jr teaches without adjust to the point of sale terminal (col.38, lines 5-9, the computer unit will accept the data delivered in the same format via line without requiring program modifications such as credit card data wherein the data is delivered in the same format via line that the data is delivered to the computer unit via the legacy I/O unit).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Freeny Jr teaching with Schulze Jr teaching allows multiple wireless devices to access a single pay phone or other public kiosk communication unit designed to detect and recognize multiple wireless service providers signals and protocols at the same time (col.1, lines 18-23, Freeny Jr).

As per claim 140., wherein the electronic data is adjusted and transmitted to another processing station, wherein the other processing station is capable of uploading of customer data via the interface to the printer (Fig.3, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 141, wherein the other processing station is capable of uploading of statistical data and down loading configuration data to the printer (Fig.3, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 142, wherein the interface is in communication with a remote server and the remote server is in communication with a controller which links one or more remote sites to the remote server (col.6, lines 16-26, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 143, wherein the interface is capable of adjusting said data in said data

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stream thereby allowing the printer to print data additional to or adjusted from data in the data stream (col.10, lines 28-34, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 144, wherein the additional print data is based on point of sale information obtained by said interface directly or indirectly from the point of sale computer (col.2, lines 41-45, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 145, wherein the point of sale terminal is a cash register which delivers a data stream to a receipt printer (col.2, lines 45-47, Fig.2, items 232, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 146, wherein a sales data is manipulated, altered, augmented, amplified or otherwise adjusted via the intelligent interface which is either local to or remote from the printer (Fig.2, items 232, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 147, wherein there are a plurality of printers at a point of sale site and a controller at either the point of sale site or at a remote location thereby enabling control of multiple printers (col.5, lines 9-15, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 148, wherein the intelligent interface connection is wireless (col.6, lines 16-24, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 149, Schulze Jr teaches wherein the intelligent interface comprises software

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embedded in a point of sale computer that functions in conjunction with the point of sale software (Fig. 2, Fig.3),

But does not teach without alteration to the point of sale software.

However, Freeny Jr teaches without alteration to the point of sale software (col.38, lines 5-9, the computer unit will accept the data delivered in the same format via line without requiring program modifications such as credit card data wherein the data is delivered in the same format via line that the data is delivered to the computer unit via the legacy I/O unit).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Freeny Jr teaching with Schulze Jr teaching allows multiple wireless devices to access a single pay phone or other public kiosk communication unit designed to detect and recognize multiple wireless service providers signals and protocols at the same time (col.1, lines 18-23, Freeny Jr).

As per claim 150, a method for collecting and/or adjusting and/or manipulating data from an electronic data stream generated at a point of sale terminal, the method comprising:

a) providing a point of sale terminal in communication with at least one peripheral device capable of receiving data generated by said point of sale terminal (col.2, lines 41-49, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, point of sale subsystem can include a main computer or server of the retailer that commonly communicates with a number of check out stations at which products are purchased, each check out stations includes a cash drawer or electronic cash register together with a product scanner, the product scanner reads the upc on the product as part of the check-out procedure, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a

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display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer);

b) providing an intelligent interface in communication with the point of sale terminal, intercepting said electronic data, the interface including an input and a first output in communication with the at least one peripheral (col.5, lines 9-14, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, the peripheral devices associated with the point of sale subsystem may include any one of a variety of input/output devices, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer);

c) providing a first processing station in communication with the interface to receive data intercepted from said data stream, d) providing a second output from the interface in communication with said data processing station, e) setting the interface so that it interrupts the data; wherein the electronic data communicated between said point of sale terminal and said at least one peripheral is specific to the peripheral device function, f) adjusting and/or compiling at least a part of said data and g) transmitting the adjusted data to said at least one peripheral device via said interface (col.2, lines 47-57, col.10, lines 23-34, Fig.3, items 112, 124, 316 and 332, the coupon redemption subsystem is adapted to interface with this point-of-sale subsystem to receive information regarding the sale of products and any associated from the point-of-sale subsystem.

In addition, the coupon redemption subsystem is adapted to store information associated with

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redeemed coupons and to attempt to match that information to product sale and discount information downloaded from the point-of-sale subsystem, peripheral devices associated with the coupon redemption subsystem include a display including touch screen type display and various input/output devices, and the input/output devices include a printer, Point of Sale system, data center links, communication interface which capable of interrupting the data stream between the POS and printer, col.10, lines 23-33, report may include information identifying the product and face value of the coupon, and any other information that has been downloaded from the point-of-sale subsystem 112 or scanned or otherwise entered into the coupon redemption subsystem 104 during the coupon verification process. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the report of redeemed coupons, a release of the verifying coupons transferring ownership of those coupons from the retailer to the third party verification service, and a check are printed using the printer 332).

But does not explicitly teach without adjustment to the point of sale terminal software.

However, Freeny Jr teaches without adjustment to the point of sale terminal software (col.38, lines 5-9, the computer unit will accept the data delivered in the same format via line without requiring program modifications such as credit card data wherein the data is delivered in the same format via line that the data is delivered to the computer unit via the legacy I/O unit).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to combine Freeny Jr teaching with Schulze Jr teaching allows multiple wireless devices to access a single pay phone or other public kiosk communication unit designed to detect and recognize multiple wireless service providers signals and protocols at the same time (col.1, lines 18-23, Freeny Jr).

As per claim 151, wherein the at least one system peripheral device is a remote printer (col.5, lines 12-14, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 152, wherein further comprising providing an interface modem connected between the point of sale terminal and printer (Fig.3, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 153, further comprises providing a software interface associated with the first processing station (Fig.2, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 154, wherein the software communicates with the data stream and intercepts and/or compiles and/or adjusts and/or manipulates the data for either storage or for subsequent delivery to a point of sale printer (Fig. 2, Schulze Jr).

As per claim 155, wherein data is communicated between a central server and a site controller, which then disseminates the data via a wireless or wired network, or both, to the intelligent interface (col.6, lines 16-24, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 156, wherein the output data to said printer includes content that is pre-loaded into the interface (Fig.2, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 157, wherein a potentially unlimited number of promotional features are

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included in the data by the use of the intelligent interface (col.13, lines 43-47, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 164, wherein the processing station performs a function of connecting to a remote network to obtain promotional or other material in real-time for inclusion in output data (col.6, lines 16-24, Schulze, Jr).

As per claim 165, wherein the remote processing station performs the function of the use of a connecting network to provide a means to update promotional material stored in the intelligent interface and any associated printer, and to update rules regarding the generation of output data (Fig.2, Schulze, Jr).

Claims 134-136 and 158-163 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulze Jr. (PAT NO: US 6,497,360 B1) in view of Freeny Jr. (PAT NO: US 6,490,443 B1) further in view of Yokoyama et al. (US 2002/0097436 A1).

As per claims 158, 161, 163 and 136 Schulze, Jr does not explicitly teach regarding receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material. However, Yokoyama et al teaches regarding receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material (paragraph [0014], [0035], sales receipts issued from POS printers record for the customer what products were purchased and the purchase price, and are handed directly to the customer after the purchased products have been registered and the sales transaction is completed, logo, logo data, or logo information include in addition to this conventional meaning any image information,

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including advertising information, announcements or notices, and coupons, repeatedly printed by a POS printer. A logo as used can contain both images graphic elements and text, and can be monochrome or color.). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the reference as regarding receipts containing graphic logos and static promotional material of Yokoyama et al with teaching of Schulze Jr because the primary purpose of a POS printer is printing detailed information about sales transactions, including the purchased products and price information to a sales receipt and journal paper (paragraph [0013], Yokoyama et al).

As per claims 159, 160, 162 and 134-135 Schulze, Jr does not explicitly teach regarding receipts containing promotional material based on the product purchased. However, Yokoyama et al teaches regarding receipts containing graphic promotional material based on the product purchased (paragraph [0014], [0016], sales receipts issued from POS printers record for the customer what products were purchased and the purchase price, and are handed directly to the customer after the purchased products have been registered and the sales transaction is completed, product promotions and announcements can be printed on a sales receipt). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the reference as receipts containing promotional material based on the product purchased of Yokoyama et al with teaching of Schulze Jr because the primary purpose of a POS printer is printing detailed information about sales transactions, including the purchased products and price information to a sales receipt and journal paper (paragraph [0013], Yokoyama et al).

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azam Cheema whose telephone number is 571-270-1753. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7.30a.m-5.00p.m ALT Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. C./

Examiner, Art Unit 2166

April 27, 2009

/S. L., May 5, 2009

/Hosain T Alam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166